

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 and 20 have been rejected as being anticipated by Inokuchi. Claim 19 has been rejected over Inokuchi in view of Okumura. In response, claim 1 is being amended to include the features formerly recited in claims 2 and 3, and conforming amendments are being made to the other claims.

In claim 1 as amended, the correcting means corrects a position of the holding means according to a posture variation of the holding means detected by the detecting means in time of transfer of the substrates between the holding means and the transport means.

Further, the correcting means includes support means for supporting the holding means to be rockable about a cantilever point of the holding means, drive means for rocking the holding means about the cantilever point, a through hole formed in a cantilever proximal portion of the holding means, a rigid member inserted into the through hole, and positioning means for moving the holding means, by using the rigid member, in an opposite direction to a direction of movement of the cantilever point of the holding means.

Inokuchi adjusts a posture of a substrate by changing a posture of an inspected part-holding member 65 when inspecting the substrate from different angles. At this time, the electron beam emitting position or the posture of inspected part-holding member 65 is corrected in order to prevent a target on the substrate from deviating from a field of view.

Although in Inokuchi, as in the present invention, a posture correction is carried out, Inokuchi gives no concrete disclosure regarding the correcting means recited in amended claim 1 as noted above. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims are neither anticipated nor made obvious by Inokuchi, considered individually or in combination with Okumura. Allowance is therefore requested.

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JAF:lf

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JAF', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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